



Eltisley & Croxton Scrapbook 1897 to 1990

Facts, Features and (occasional) Fallacies
reported in Cambridge Newspapers

summarised by

Mike Petty

Eltisley & Croxton Scrapbook 1897 to 1990

Facts, Features and (occasional) Fallacies
reported in Cambridge Newspapers

summarised by

Mike Petty

Most of these stories originally appeared in the Cambridge Daily/Evening/News or the
Cambridgeshire Weekly News, its sister title.

They are supplemented by some articles published in the
Cambridge Independent Press or Cambridge Chronicle

Most were featured in my 'Looking Back' column in the Cambridge News from 1996-2014

The complete 'Cambridgeshire Scrapbook' of which this is a small section is published online at
[bit.ly/CambsCollection](https://archive.org/search.php?query=creator%3A%22Mike%20Petty%22)

<https://archive.org/search.php?query=creator%3A%22Mike%20Petty%22>

I have digital and other copies of most of the stories summarised.
I hope to publish these online one day. If you would like them in the meantime then please get in
touch.

The original volumes are housed in the Cambridgeshire Collection at Cambridge Central Library
where there are many other indexes dating back to 1770.

They also have detailed newspaper cuttings files on over 750 topics that have been compiled since the
1960s.

Newspapers sometimes get things wrong. I copy things out incorrectly. Do check

There are a multitude of spelling and layout errors. Please forgive or correct them

News never stops but this file was finished on 31 August 2016.

I will maintain supplements and corrections – contact me for anything you need

Please make what use of these notes that you may. Kindly remember where they came from

See my website – www.mikepetty.org.uk for further notes.

Mike Petty, Stretham

2018

1900

1907 12 17

Hauxton School should be closed to children who have passed the third standard and they must attend Shelford or Harston schools, the Education authority decided in the interests of economy. But parents objected and eight were summoned for not sending their children to school. It meant a walk of a mile-and-a-half, they would get wet and sit in wet things all day as there was no chance of drying them. But the entire school population of Wood Ditton, Croxton and Eltisley had to walk that distance. - 07 12 17 & a

1910

1911 03 24

Mistletoe is the most beautiful berry-bearing plant in existence and Mr G.E. Cozens of Eltisley claims to have the finest and most beautiful bough in England. It is five feet across and bears thousands of pearl-white berries which remains until the new ones appear when the bough becomes even more beautiful, clothed with green and white berries together. Queen Alexandra has accepted a spray and a photograph. Mr Cozens sells the seed with the money going to the Cambridge Hospital 11 03 24f

1911 05 12

A labourer of no fixed abode was charged with begging at Eltisley. James Carter said the man came to his house and asked for some dripping or butter then went next door where two old women lived. When Carter told him to go away the prisoner struck him, knocked his hat off, pulled his whiskers and used bad language. The man later called at the lodgings of P.C. Smith and again asked for dripping. On arrest he had a pound of bread in his possession that he'd got from the Workhouse. The tramp was sentenced to one month's imprisonment 11 05 12a

1911 10 27

The Medical Officer reported that the wife of the landlord of the Golden Lion at Bourn had fallen ill with typhoid. He had tested the water supply and found nothing wrong with it. He was told that she had eaten some mussels and was of the opinion that this was the cause. This was no uncommon occurrence. 11 10 27 also water supply Eltisley, Croxton, Papworth area 11 10 27

1912 07 26

"Expect 40 wounded men 3 o'clock" read the telegram received by Croxton detachment of the British Red Cross Society. It appeared the army had been engaged with a force of the enemy near St Neots and as a result 40 men were wounded. When they arrived at Croxton Park the hospital camp had been pitched and everything was in readiness – stores, a kitchen and operating tent. The sufferers – members of the Croxton and Eltisley Boy Scouts - were treated by 80 men and women who had turned up. There was only one real casualty during the exercise – a child was bitten by a dog. 12 07 26b & c

1913 01 03

Licensing sessions – brewers compensation levy; too many pubs in Gamlingay & Eltisley

1913 05 09

Caxton water supply, Eltisley withdraws from scheme

1914 02 27

Croxton parish meeting to discuss housing was well attended. At first there was evidence they would like to have cottages. But when it came to the cost and the rent to be charged the feeling of the meeting changed, for men did not like the idea of paying extra. If cottages were built at three shillings a week they would be occupied by the better-off people. They would be jeered at for living in cottages which the poorer-people were paying for 14 02 27b

1914 09 11

Territorials – response, Caxton, Foxton, Meldreth, Eltisley, Godmanchester, Swaffham Prior, Whittlesford,

1918 10 02

Death of Countess.—We regret to record the death of Florence Cecilia, Countess of Dysart, of Weald House, St. Neots, which occurred at Hyde, Isle of Wight, from the effects of a stroke, with which she was seized on the previous Friday. She was a daughter of the late Mr. George Onslow Newton, of Croxton Park, and was married to the ninth Earl of Dysart in 1885. She was sister to Mr. W. Douglas Newton, of Croxton Park, and she showed considerable interest in various good works in South Huntingdonshire. The funeral took place at Croxton Church on Saturday afternoon. 18 10 02 CIP

1920

1920 01 07

Rats Killed, Up to December 3rd last the number of rats killed in the county and paid for by Cambs County Council under the Rats Order, was 35,516. The districts concerned were: Little Abington (number of rats killed 504), Ashley (980), Balsham (2,718), Borough Green (358), Bottisham (999), Cheveley (631), Chippenham (838), Great Chishill (322), Croxton (225), Dullingham (1,205), Duxford (754), Elsworth (39), Fordham (8,072), Fowlmere (489), Harston (322), Hauxton (186), Heydon (1,593), Hildersham (236), Horseheath (324), Ickleton (1,095), Isleham (3,809), Kennett (1,422), Kirtling (396), Kneesworth (549), Linton (584), Lode (548), Melbourn (442), Newton (160), Pampisford (429), Sawston (332), Shepreth (313), Shudy Camps (1.38), Snailwell (786), Soham (2,896), Stetchworth (1,105), Swaffham Prior (1,032), Thriplow (464), Waterbeach (967), West Wickham (995), Whittlesford (324), Great Wilbraham (846), Wood Ditton (2,017).

1920 08 28

Demonstration of American machine for tiling draining fields, at Croxton

1920 09 01

Tile drainage difficult – young men have had enough of digging trenches – now American machine demonstrated at Croxton Park – 20 09 01a; photos 29 09 08a

1920 09 07

‘Buckeye’ field trenching and tile draining machine demonstrated at Croxton Park

1921 06 22

Croxton Rector and wife charged neglecting two nurse children – 21 06 22b

1921 08 24

Croxton air smash; two Duxford officers killed – 21 08 24a

1922 03 17

The results of the Cambridge by-election was declared as follows. Sir Douglas Newton (Conservative & Unionist) 10,897, Mr Hugh Dalton (Lab) 6,954, Mr Cope Morgan (Lib) 4,529. The first telegram of congratulation was received from the staff of the Croxton fruit farm

1922 06 22

A party of about sixty fruitgrowers and farmers had a very enjoyable and instructive outing to Croxton Park. Arriving at the fruit farm, the first thing that the growers remarked "What a crop of Monarch plums". It was evident that every variety had a very heavy-crop, even such as Lane's Prince Albert apple and Emneth Early apple, whilst the gage crop hang like grapes on the branches. About 100 acres are under fruit cultivation.

1922 06 26

Fruit growers visit Croxton Park, p6

1924 05 23

Croxton storms, p6*

1927 10 12

Croxton school, p6

1929 01 23

Caxton Rural Council received a letter from the Beds. Cambs. and Hunts Electricity Company seeking permission to fix an overhead wire from St Ives to Eltisley. The line would go through Hilton and Papworth and be a great boon. Mr Moss asked if the wires would be high enough to clear a man on a loaded cart. He had seen the wires near Cambridge and they seemed very low. The Chairman said this was a matter for the owners of the land. He pointed out that it was the top wire that was the dangerous one, and the lower ones were merely guards.

1031 03 13

The Conservative's touring cinema vans includes talking as well as silent films. There was a crowded attendance at Soham Fen when the programme started with an Empire film, followed by a humorous cartoon showing how the rising tide of unemployment was stemmed by Stanley Baldwin in the guise of a plumber. There were talkies on the agricultural situation and a tour of a motor works together with pictures of the hardships suffered by town dwellers during the General Strike. The van will visit Croxton, Wicken and Chittering. 31 03 13e

1930

1931 03 06

The Medical Officer said there was a case of scarlet fever at Papworth and the boy had been taken to the Isolation Hospital. There were many cases of mild influenza and two of pneumonia. There were cases of measles at Eltisley and Graveley where all the children had been affected and the school closed for a period. 31 03 06c

1931 12 18

Gamlingay parish council has been told it may not get electricity for a considerable time. The Electricity Company has plans for a line from Eltisley to Meldreth in the future but there are many hundreds of towns and villages still waiting supply and the demand in Gamlingay is small. If factories were erected it would receive more favourable attention. 31 12 18d

1933 04 19

Cambridgeshire police are losing a valued officer by the retirement of P.S. Sidney Smith. He joined the force in 1907 and was stationed at Eltisley, Swavesey, Willingham and Fen Ditton before being promoted to sergeant in 1926 and moving to Melbourn. He will be missed by motorists, for he has had more motor cases than anyone else in the county. 33 04 19

1934 08 06

The amazing story of a young Cambridge man's cycle raids on village churches unfolded at court. He left home in the mornings, leaving people to think he was going to work, and rode around the villages, forcing boxes, safes and drawers in the churches. He carried tools in a brown attaché case and when spoken too professed great interest in the wood carvings. He'd raided churches at Cottenham, Eltisley, Harlton and Stansted as well as stealing a collecting box from the Cathedral Café, Ely. 34 08 06

1936 04 18

Lord Eltisley has made extensive use of electricity on his estate at Croxton Park for threshing, pumping, grinding pig food, working sack hoists and operating fruit grading, corn cleaning and potato sorting machines. It also drives a sawmill, heats sites with newly-farrowed pigs, warms milk for new-born lambs and drives elevators for stacking straw and hay. Fourteen motors are in frequent use. He is a director of the Beds, Cambs and Hunts Electricity Company amongst several others and while Cambridge MP served on a parliamentary committee on the development of electricity in rural areas. 36 04 18a

1938 01 12

Three stacks, a tractor and threshing drum were destroyed at a fire at College Farm, Caxton End, Eltisley. Firemen obtained water from the farm pond, emptying it three times. But after it was used the water drained back along a ditch to the pond again, thus providing a perpetual supply. Then it started to rain and poured all night. Other farm buildings containing carts and a number of other implements, together with wheat, hay and linseed stacks were saved. Four years ago the farmhouse was burnt down 38 01 12a

1940

1940 07 29

War-Ag inspect Dig for Victory initiative on Croxton Park – 40 07 29c

1942 09 02

12 Years M.P. for Cambridge. - We regret to announce that Lord Eltisley, High Steward of Cambridge, died early on Wednesday at his home at Croxton Park. He had been ill for some considerable time. Aged 63 years - his birthday fell on July 14 last - Lord Eltisley was created first Baron in 1934. In 1922, Lord Eltisley (then Sir Douglas Newton) defeated the Liberal and Labour candidates in a three-cornered light and was returned as Conservative M.P for Cambridge, which he served in that capacity until 1934 when he was raised to the peerage. He was a former Vice-Chairman and later Chairman of the Cambridgeshire County Council. In 1917 he was created a K.B.E. A famous agriculturist, he held various important posts in this sphere. He controlled, with the aid of his farm manager, 2,000 acres at Croxton Park. – 42 09 02

1942 09 11

Funeral of Lord Eltisley.—The funeral service for the late Lord Eltisley, which took place at Croxton Church on Saturday, was attended mainly by the family and by tenants at the Park and members of the staff. There were other mourners, however, who went out to pay a last tribute to a noted agriculturist and a beloved squire, and the tiny church was packed to capacity. After the service the coffin was lowered into the family vault, covered with wreaths and with sunflowers from the estate. 42 09 11

1943 01 15

Lord Eltisley's Will. George Douglas Cochrane Newton, Baron Eltisley, of Croxton, Cambs, who died on September 2nd last, aged 63 years, left £183,651, with net personalty £25,263 14s. 3d. (duty paid, £9,829). He left an annuity of £150 to Dorothy Bowie, secretary, and the residue to his wife, stating that it was his expressed wish that she should by her will give such property to his daughter, the Hon Myra Alice Lady Fox.

1944 05 26

Lady Eltisley Re-married. The marriage of Lord Huntingfield and Lady Eltisley of Croxton took place quietly on Wednesday in St Faith's Chapel, Westminster Abbey. The Dean of Westminster officiated. Lady Eltisley, left a widow on the death of her first husband, Lord Eltisley, who was the first baron and formerly Sir Douglas Newton. Lord Huntingfield, who is 61, is the fifth holder of a barony created in 1796. He was born in Australia and appointments he has held include the Governorship of Victoria 1934-9 and that of acting Governor-General of Australia. In 1941 he was appointed Governor

of Southern Rhodesia. For six years, from 1923, he represented the Eye Division of Suffolk in Parliament and during 1927 he was Parliamentary Private Secretary to the President of the Board Trade. 44 05 26

1947 07 31

At the meeting of the Chesterton Rural District Council it was reported that a further three parishes (Coton, Fen Drayton and Lolworth) had been supplied with water mains. It was anticipated that the work involving the supply to Barton, Comberton, Toft, Haslingfield and Harlton would be put in hand during the coming year. Several parishes, notably Croxton, Eltisley, Graveley, Hardwick and Dry Drayton were extremely short of water for domestic and stock purposes and trouble was anticipated in the summer months. The position could not be improved until a new high level water tower was erected thereby affording sufficient pressure to enable a mains supply to be taken to these villages.

1949 02 18

The operation of an express coach service between Eltisley green, Kisby's Hut, Elsworth and Pye Telecommunications Ltd at Ditton Walk, came before the Eastern Area Traffic Authority. The service is operated by Progressive Motor Coaches, and as Pye now propose to make a deduction from the wages of each employee carried, an operating licence is required. Grant of the licence was opposed by Premier Travel Ltd and Whippet Coaches who said they would consume less petrol

1949 03 15

Daring thieves have again been busy with the church roof at Eltisley, removing 15 cwt of lead valued at between £70 and £80. About a year ago a quantity of roof leading was removed in the night and now, with this latest outrage, one whole side of the roof is completely leadless. The marauders worked so secretly and quietly that nothing untoward was suspected at the time of the robbery

1950

1957 07 03

The A14 at Kisby's Hut is now open after three months in which through traffic has been re-routed through Eltisley and local motorists have used private bye-ways. Papworth Everard residents will long remember the respite from thundering night lorries and the revival during the day of the almost-forgotten privilege of strolling along the Queen's Highway with the main stream of traffic fenced off. 57 07 03

1960

1960 08 18

Somewhere in the field around Eltisley there may be hidden £1,000 of gold communion plate from the village church which disappeared 400 years ago. Ancient records show that two chalices and a gold cross have been missing since the reign of Edward VI. The church was sacked during that turbulent time and churchwarden John Rose thinks villagers may have hidden them under an old windmill. But nobody now knows where it stood 60 08 18

1960 10 07

Throughout the year the CIP carried a series of feature articles relating to Cambridgeshire villages. They include Eltisley & Croxton – 60 10 07 CIP

1964 04 02

The congregation of the Wesleyan Chapel at Eltisley have worshipped in their church for the last time. Amongst those at the final service were people whose forefathers had built the chapel and prayed there all their lives. Now the chapel is going to be transformed into a grain store. The interior is being demolished and the old pews are on sale to anyone needing a garden seat or firewood. But some say it was the Methodist chapel that should have closed: it looks more like a dance hall than a place of worship and is really close to all the heavy traffic. 64 04 02

1965 02 19

Croxton church is some distance from village – feature - 65 02 19a

1970

1973 05 30

A £90,000 bypass has brought peace to the village of Eltisley, near St Neots. Suddenly last week the roar of traffic from the A45 ceased and a comparative silence descended on the main road. The rumble of continental juggernauts stopped and the danger from fast-moving cars almost disappeared. To celebrate the arrival of the by-pass one young married couple took a leisurely stroll down the middle of the old main road - something that would have been impossible during a normal bank holiday with a stream of traffic travelling at least 50 mph. But not all Eltisley welcomed the by-pass. The local garage owner, Mr Tim Furlonger, since it could be a disaster as far as his business is concerned

1976 03 26

Eltisley green, p9

1976 05 05

A row over the introduction of Sunday cricket on the green at Eltisley has split the village into two opposing teams. Some of the villagers have no-balled the games as a desecration of the Sabbath and an interruption of the villagers' peace and quiet. Play was stopped while a resident walked on to the field to protest to Eltisley's captain, who is also chairman of the Parish Council. Both the parochial church council and members of the Methodist chapel are against it.

1976 11 09

Eltisley letter, p3

1977 03 28

Motorists were caught on the hop today as snow spread across almost all of East Anglia. The A45 was blocked near Newmarket when a tanker crashed at the Red Lodge petrol pumps & an unladen tanker overturned near the Four Went Ways. The Chatteris to Ely road was almost blocked & at Haddenham a baker's van slithered across the road. Police say there have been inundated with reports of hold-ups and accidents. Villagers at Hardwick were still without electricity at lunchtime, 11 hours after power went off. Parts of Papworth and Eltisley are also without supplies.

1977 04 19

A row is simmering just below the surface of the seemingly peaceful expanse of Eltisley village green. The wrangle turns on technical and legal points on the right to have driveways over a part of the green, which is common land. The question has split the village in two. It has brought the council into dispute with a vicar, a farmer and a doctor. It has made parish council meetings notoriously stormy and brought villagers out in force to watch the proceedings. The clerk and a council member have resigned over the row which make take a test court case to solve.

1977 08 04

Eltisley kidney donor register, p11

1979 07 02

Eltisley parish church may have to borrow to meet repair bills for its spire unless a government grant arrives soon. The total cost of the repair is £6,200 but the Department of the Environment is taking a long time to pay out its half of the bill. The Parochial Church Council has undertaken furious fund raising but the money would not last very long when they have to pay contractors expenses. Architects said the spire was in an appalling state in places and it was possible to put a hand between some of the stones.

1980

1980 07 11

Eltisley Cricket Club missed their centenary and only recently discovered their true age. But now they intend to celebrate in style when they meet Godmanchester in a return of a fixture first played 125 years ago. According to an ancient newspaper cutting Eltisley won then by an innings but they are taking no chances this time and are boosting their team by including former England wicket keeper Godfrey Evans in their side. 80 07 11d

1981 11 26

The new owner of the Croxton estate is anxious to see the whole village rejuvenated and the Old Manor House converted to a pub. He also hopes to attract caravan and traction engine rallies to raise money to preserve the Hall which has been in his family for more than 160 years. It needs major repairs: many of the rooms have a problem with damp and recently part of the ceiling in the dining room collapsed. 81 11 26a

1983 05 21

Villages around Cambridge are reeling from flooding – more than a foot deep in places – which swept through their homes after torrential rain smashed down onto already waterlogged ground. Houses were under water over a massive area, including the villages of Croxton and Over. Swavesey baker, Roger Godfrey, was watching the cup final when he realised water was coming in under his front door, with four inches covering his floor at one stage. 83 05 21

1984 03 10

Croxton Park and its entire estate including 14 houses and cottages together with 2,590 acres of farm and woodland have been sold for nearly £10 million. The Georgian mansion now belongs to Christopher Curry or Acorn Computers. Speculation about a sale began when preservation orders on buildings and trees were prepared following suggestions that the estate was to be sold piece by piece. 84 03 10

1985 07 11

A crowd assembled at Eltisley as the new Village Sign was handed over to the Parish Council by the Women's Institute in a special ceremony. It depicts the church with some thunder and lightning representing a storm which, legend has it, wreaked havoc on the village. It was the WI project for 1984 and the council supplied a plinth of York stone. At the same time the Best Kept Village Award given to Eltisley by the Cambridge Evening News in 1983 was erected nearby 85 07 11

1986 07 01

Chris Curry resigns from Acorn starts General Information Systems based at Croxton – 86 07 01c

1986 08 06

The run-down village of Croxton could be restored under a joint scheme by Chris Curry, founder of Acorn Computers who bought the Hall and village in 1984 and Sindall the builders. Most of the properties were constructed in the late 18th-century as low-cost housing for estate workers. Now fourteen would be renovated and just two which are beyond economic repair demolished. There would also be new homes together with a village hall and green to bring back a sense of community. But a parish meeting has rejected the idea of more houses in the centre 86 08 06 & 07

1986 08 07

Croxton plan, p6

1986 12 22

Valuable silver ornaments stolen from Shudy Camps church have mysteriously turned up at Eltisley church. Thieves who broke into the 13th-century St Mary's church in September raided the safe and made off with a Victorian chalice and paten, both in solid silver, along with a silver and mother-of-

pearl baptismal shell, together worth £1,000. They were left in Eltisley church porch with a note saying 'Please return to Shudy Camps. Bought in Error'. It is a lovely Christmas present for the village 86 12 22

1988 08 09

Croxton dispute – Chris Curry does not want rector using track over his land to St James' church – 88 08 09